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KEYNSHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

:: YEAR 1925 ::

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March, 1926.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

To the Keynsham Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

In compiling my Annual Report for the year 1925, I have endeavoured to follow, as far as possible, the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 648.

I have also taken each parish separately, and stated the conditions now existing in each with regard to sanitary matters, housing, schools, etc., as a starting point for future comparison.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 21,406.
Population 1925—11,070.
Private families, 2,520 ... ...
Population in private families, 10,292 ... ...
Structurally separate dwellings occupied, 2,384 } Census, 1921.
Rooms occupied, 13,233 ... ...
Rooms per person, 1·29.... ... ...
Rateable value—£
Sum represented by 1d. rate—£297 (average of 4 years).

2.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	146	78	68	Birth rate — 14·1.
	Illegitimate	11	7	4	

Deaths—108 ... ...Death rate—corrected—8·32*
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ... from sepsis ... ... *nil.*
" other causes ... 1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—
Legitimate—13·6 ; illegitimate—454·5. Total 44·58**
There were 7 deaths under 1 year of age ; 3 under 1 week ; 1 to 4 weeks 1 ; 1 to 6 months 2 ; 6 to 12 months 1.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)—*nil.*
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)—2.
" " Diarrhœa under 2 years of age—*nil.*
Infectious Disease Rate—0·18.

* This rate is 4 per 1000 below that for England and Wales for the year.

** This is a low and satisfactory rate compared with the rate for the whole of England and Wales, which is 75.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.

	T'tl cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.	under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	over 45
Scarlet Fever	22	15	...	...	...	...	2	1	10	6	...	3	...	...
Diphtheria ...	4	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...
Enteric Fever...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia ...	25*	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	3	3	3	4	9
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6
Malaria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Totals	64	17	—	—	2	1	2	1	13	10	4	11	5	15

* Of these 7 were Influenzal.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	2	1	1	1	1	...	...
20	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
25	2	4	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	1	3	1	...	1	1	...	...
45	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Totals ..	4	12	6	3	5	3	0	1

There was no death from unnotified Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis visiting is undertaken by the County Council.

INFLUENZA caused 3 deaths. One in January, one in March, and one in April, aged 22, 48 and 52 years respectively. Precautionary Leaflets were distributed.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—No case was notified. Only 2 cases have been notified during the past five years; whether this is due to oversight or non-occurrence is uncertain, but I think it is due to non-occurrence.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received, or required, comment.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Diphtheria.

During the past year this disease has been conspicuous by its almost entire absence, only 4 cases being notified. They were scattered over the district, had no connection with one another, and were all imported. One was at Woollard and 1 in Keynsham during the second quarter of the year; and 1 at Keynsham and 1 at Brislington during the fourth quarter. There was no death.

The average number of notifications of diphtheria per year during the past five years is 19·6, so that 1925 was peculiarly free. For many years now we have forunately been free from anything like an extensive outbreak, such as occurred before the war at Brislington and Corston, and this comparative immunity must I think be largely attributed to the early and much more complete removal to Hospital which has been carried out.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-two cases were notified all but 7 of which occurred in Brislington. Of the other 7 cases 4 were in Keynsham, 2 at Whitchurch and 1 at Kelston. In no single instance was there more than one case in a family; 15 were removed to Hospital, in the other 7, good home isolation was possible. No death occurred from this disease, which was of a mild variety, save in one instance.

The average number of notifications of this disease per year for the last five years is 25·8, so that the number during 1925 is slightly below the average.

Causes of Sickness—continued.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases were notified, both in the third quarter at Brislington, both distinctly imported and unconnected; both recovered.

This disease is of rare occurrence in the district, only 4 cases (including Paratyphoid) being notified during the past five years in three of which there was no case reported.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

A case was notified from a Bristol Nursing Home in February, having been admitted there on 27th January from Whitchurch. The case was that of a female aged 66, and terminated fatally. Enquiry failed to show how the disease was contracted.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

In March a child aged about 8 years was notified at Keynsham. The history is as follows:—

5th Mar.—Complained of feeling ill.

6th Mar.—Temp. 103°, very sleepy; vomiting and constipation; intense headache and photophobia; foul tongue; some stupor, roused by loud talk.

7th Mar.—Petechial rash on arm, chest, back and cheeks, more distinct at night. Temp. 101°. No Koeplic. Nausea, headache.

8th Mar.—Temp. 100°, rash fading; general condition improved. Kernig's sign well marked.

9th Mar.—Temp. 99°. Kernig's sign still present, muscles spastic; much brighter, asks for food.

10th Mar.—Temp. 97°. Knees and arms resist passive motion; tongue cleaner; mentally brighter.

11th Mar.—Case visited by Medical Officer of Health. Knees and arms as on 10th Mar. Mentally fairly clear; slight right convergent strabismus.

From this time the case recovered fairly rapidly without sequelœ.

Measles.

During the past five years there has been no large epidemic of this disease, such as occurred from time to time previously, and there have been only two deaths—three of the years recording no death.

Causes of Sickness—continued.

As soon as measles is known to exist in any part of the district notices of precautions, which should be taken, are posted, and appear to have a good effect.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Home nursing is carried out by the Somerset County Nursing Association ; no general nurses are employed by the Local Authority. There is a resident Nurse at 17, Wick Road, for the parish of Brislington ; the parishes of Corston, Newton-St-Loe, Stanton Prior and Marksbury have one nurse between them ; the parishes of Compton Dando, Priston and Whitchurch have visiting nurses ; the parishes of Keynsham and Saltford have resident nurses.

Midwives.

Number practising in district 8, residing in district 6. Midwives from Bristol and Bath take occasional cases. None employed or subsidised by Local Authority. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

None, except treatment centres for Venereal Disease and Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

The Tuberculosis work in this area is served by Clinics at Bristol on Thursdays ; Bath, Mondays and Fridays ; and Radstock, Wednesdays.

V.D. cases from Keynsham can either go to the clinics at Bath or Bristol, or to the County Council clinic at Radstock on Wednesday afternoons.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

(*a*) Hospitals available for general sickness (not in district and not subsidised by Local Authority) :—

Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Bristol General Hospital.

Bristol Hospital for Sick Women and Children.

Bath Hospitals.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements—continued.

(*b*) **Infectious Hospital** at Keynsham, provided and maintained by Local Authority. Provision for 12 beds in one ward block, with laundry, disinfector, ambulance house, and gatekeeper's lodge (now used as Administration Block).

The adaptation of the lodge for administrative purposes is a great advantage. New stoves have recently been put in, electric light installed, and the hospital generally with the ground around it is in much better condition than in 1920. Cases admitted in 1925: Scarlet Fever 15, Diphtheria 2.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children—None.

Ambulance facilities.

(*a*) For infectious cases. Proper horse ambulance kept at Hospital.

(*b*) For non-infectious and accident—none.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

This is carried out at the Somerset County Public Health Laboratory, at which all examinations for Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Tuberculosis, and the bacteriological examination of samples of water are now conducted. Examination of specimens of Cerebro-spinal Fever has also been arranged with this Laboratory.

Antitoxin.

There are three depots from which this can be obtained—one at Keynsham, one at Brislington, and one at Corston. Units issued during the year—136,000; of these 120,000 were supplied to medical practitioners and 16,000 used at the Hospital. The smaller quantity used at the Hospital is due to the more extended use of the serum prior to admission—that is at the most useful time. Antitoxin is now stocked in phials containing the minimum dose advised by the Ministry of Health.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations in force in the District.

A list of these was given on page 3 of Annual Report for 1920 (*quod vide*). It is proposed to adopt certain sections of the Public Health Act 1925.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES REPORT

for the year 1925. *Keynsham, Somerset.*

	No. of Complaints received during the year	202
	No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected ... ... under P.H. Acts	225
	No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected ... ... under H. & T.P. Act	35
	No. of re-visits to see that work has been carried out, or for other reasons	122
	Housing re-visits	82
RESULTS OF INSPECTION	No. of Houses or Premises cleansed, repaired, or W. washed under P.H. Acts	147
	No. of Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses or Premises (not Housing)	25
	No. of Houses disinfected, or to which disinfectants were supplied	42
	No. of Infectious cases visited	27
	Tuberculosis—Disinfections, 12. Visited	8
	No of Visits to infectious cases notified and not notified ...	152
SEWERS	No. of New Sewers laid down by Builder	Nil
	No. of Sewers cleansed or repaired	5
HOUSE DRAINS	No. repaired or cleansed	19
	No. relaid (piped)	6
	No. trapped or ventilated	10
	No. of New Pipes Drains laid	17
	No. of other New Drains laid	Nil
	No. of Drains tested	69
PRIVIES, CESSPOOLS and W.C.'s	No. of Privies cleansed and reconstructed	5
	No. of Cesspools cleansed or reconstructed	6
	No. of Cesspools closed	2
	No. of New Cesspools	2
	No. of Septic Tanks	5
	No. of New W.C.'s	14
	No. of W.C.'s, New Pans and Repairs	6
	No. of Dry Privies constructed (E.C.'s)	8
	No. of Dry Privies converted from Cesspit Closets	4
WATER SUPPLY	No. of Samples of Water taken for analysis	18
	No. of Wells closed	1
	No. of *Old* Houses supplied with Company's Water	3
	No. of New Wells	4
	No. of New Cisterns (soft water)	1
	No. of Wells or Cisterns cleansed or repaired	3
NEW HOUSES	No. of New Houses certified as fit for habitation to 31st Aug.	14
	No. of such Houses supplied with Company's Water	11
	No. of such Houses supplied with Wells or Cisterns	3
	Temporary Buildings (3 years' permission), Company's Water	2
	No. of Dairies, &c., inspected	115
	No. of Bakehouses inspected	9
	No. of Slaughter Houses inspected	13
	No. of Factories inspected	3
	No. of Workshops inspected	5
	Overcrowding (cases of) reported	5
	,, ,, abated	2
	No. of Legal Proceedings	Nil

(*Signed*) GEORGE WATTS, A.S.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924, etc.
Particulars for Year 1925.

1. Slaughter Houses.

1920. Registered 8. Licensed 3. Total 11.

1925. Registered 9. Licensed 4. Total 13.

Length of time for which the licences are granted, one year.

Inspections made—530; inspection carried out at time of slaughtering as far as possible.

Several of these premises are not well fitted for the purpose, but, as they cannot be licensed, we can only try to have them reasonably kept.

2. Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations.

(*a*) The person (or persons) appointed to receive these notices: The Sanitary Inspector.

(*b*) Number of Slaughter House occupiers (exclusive of emergency slaughtering) who have given only a notice of slaughtering at a fixed time, 12; who have not given such a notice, but give a notice of each time of slaughter, 1. Number of notices given under Section 9, 36.

3. Has the Sanitary Inspector a *special* Meat Certificate, No; but has attended special course on meat inspection held by the County Counil in 1925.

4. Particulars of *meat* condemned (whether seized or surrendered) during 1925:—

Animal and parts condemned		During 1st half-year	During 2nd half-year	Total for the year
Pigs	Whole carcase	—	3	3
	Head	—	—	—
	Internal organs alone	—	7	7
Oxen and Calves	Whole carcase	—	2	2
	Fore or hind quarters only	—	1	1
	Head	2	—	2
	Internal organs alone	12	8	20
Sheep	Whole carcase	1	—	1
	Organs alone	—	—	—
Other animals	Whole carcase	—	Rabbits 7	7
	Organs alone	—	—	—
Tinned Meats		—	—	—

Weight of unsound meat dealt with—1,494 lbs.

Condemned meat dealt with at Messrs. Coles', Bristol.

All Butchers shops are provided with windows.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

No. of persons entered on Register	115
" Cowkeepers	108
" Inspections made during the year	420

The farms and dairies are regularly visited, and repairs and improvements carried out where necessary. Seventeen sheds refloored this year. One new milk room built. Six new cowsheds built.

Milk Supply.

(*a*) No. of distributors on the Register—26 (of these 19 are also producers).

(*b*) No. of producers on the Register—108.

(*c*) Steps taken to make the Register a complete one: Registration forms sent out to all Dairymen and Producers and record made.

(*d*) Who undertakes the milk inspections, and if any additional or special staff provided: Inspections by Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health if required. No special staff.

(*e*) Particulars of any licences granted to distributors to sell pasteurized, graded or certified milk: 1 supplementary licence to sell grade A certified milk. 1 supplementary licence to sell pasteurized milk.

(*f*) Steps taken to improve milk supply conditions: Notices served for repairs to defective sheds. Advice given in respect of general cleanliness of premises and beasts, sterilizing of milk utensils and their storage. Clean milk demonstrations given in several parts of the district by County Council milk lecturers. Arrangements made by County Medical Officer of Health for taking and testing samples of milk for Tuberculosis, the Police take samples of milk and cream.

Bakehouses.

Kept under regular observation and limewashing and cleanliness supervised. In two, new flooring has been laid.

Steam Disinfector and Disinfection.

The disinfector, which is situated at the Hospital, and is a Portable Steam Disinfector, made by Goddard, Massey & Warner, has again proved of great value. During the year 733 articles have passed through the machine. This appears a small number, but articles capable of such disinfection are boiled at home; a large number were so dealt with.

House Disinfection.

Rooms are now disinfected with Izal, or cyllin spray, which has replaced the old method of sulphur fumigation. In many cases, where rooms in old cottages have to be dealt with, the use of sulphur is almost impossible, as the fumes pervade the house. The new method is quite as, if not more, effectual, and certainly more comfortable to the inmates.

Disinfection is carried out in all cases of notifiable disease, except Erysipelas.

Water Supply.

The district generally is very well situated with regard to water supply. In addition to supplies by the Bristol Water Works Co. and the West Gloucester Water Co. the area is full of springs. In the parishes of Burnett, Compton Dando, Kelston, Newton St. Loe, Northstoke and Priston there are springs giving a considerable quantity of water in addition to those used as supplies. In the Northstoke Hills alone there are known springs capable of yielding at least 250,000 gallons per day in summer.

A watch has been kept on the water supplies of the district, and appropriate action taken where analysis showed action necessary. Samples taken from some of the village public supplies towards the end of the year were unsatisfactory, and careful enquiry will be made into the matter and appropriate action taken. With the exception of Marksbury, the springs supplying parishes are well away from houses and any visible source of pollution.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of :—

Medical Officer of Health (part time, part salary repaid).
Inspector of Nuisances (whole time, part salary repaid).
Surveyor (whole time).
Assistant Surveyor (whole time).
Medical Attendant to Isolation Hospital (part time).
Matron at Hospital.
Nurse at Hospital.
Maid at Hospital.
Hospital Orderly acting as Removal Officer, working steam disinfector, and acting as gardener and odd job man (whole time.)

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total 52, including 6 temporary buildings. Of these 18 were in the Rural parishes. For number in Urban Byelaw parishes *vide* Table overleaf.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 67

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 (re-inspected)... 35

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 45

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 14

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 27

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—

(*a*) by owners ... ... 7, others in hand.

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close... ... Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 19

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) by owners 17

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

A good many in course of repair.

C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil.

* TABLE.

PARISH.	Houses by private enterprise.	Subsidy Bungalows and Houses under 1923 Act.	Temporary dwellings.	
Keynsham ...	8	7	—	Total 34
Brislington ...	4	4	—	
Whitchurch ...	4	3	4	

The total number of new houses erected in the five years 1921—1925 is 207, an average of 41·4 a year. This appears a fair record for a Rural district.

There is however, still a shortage, and to meet this the Council is preparing a scheme for certain of the parishes as follows :—

Brislington: land being acquired for	80 houses	Total 126.
Keynsham: decision to erect	24 "	
Saltford: " " "	4 "	
Whitchurch: " " "	12 "	
Compton Dando " " "	6 "	

It is hoped that this provision together with building by private enterprise will go far towards meeting the district's needs, and to do away with those cases at Brislington, Keynsham, Whitchurch and Compton Dando, where two families occupy one house often with consequent overcrowding.

Difficulties in Remedying Unfitness of Houses.

For several years after the war shortage of labour (now being overcome) cost of repairs, and ownership by persons dependent on the rents for their living, of many cottages with a low rent, frequently in arrear, were grave difficulties which still exist to a lesser extent. In the case of larger estates progress is slow, a limited number being repaired each year in addition to urgent repairs to roofs, etc.

Factories and Workshops.

Three factories inspected and five workshops.

One complaint in respect of Sanitary accommodation at a Factory remedied.

Two complaints in respect of Workshops requiring cleansing of walls, &c., remedied.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Physical Features and General Character of the District with its Geology were fully described in the Annual Report for the year 1919 *q. v.*

Below are set forth the conditions existing with regard to certain matters in each Parish of the District, separately.

1. Brislington Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and drainage :—

A proper system of pipe sewers, with flushing tank at the head, to which houses are connected by properly disconnected pipe drains, exists. The main sewer practically follows the course of the brook, and ultimately discharges into the tidal Avon. The system works satisfactorily, but is taxed to the full at flood times. An extension of 432 yds. of 6 inch sewer laid on Wick Road Estate this year.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Water Closet accommodation save in outlying cottages. Old type pans are replaced by pedestal or cottage pans where insanitary.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Practically the whole is supplied by the Bristol Water Works Co. (continuous supply) ; a few wells exist in the more rural part.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

House refuse collected weekly under contract and disposed of in an old quarry half a mile away ; as much as possible is burnt.

(*e*) Schools :—

Parochial School :—

Urinal and Pan closets. Company's water for drinking, flushing W.C.s and washing.

Infant School :—

Urinals and pan closets. Company's water for all purposes.

(*f*) Housing :—

Brislington is continuous with the City of Bristol, and the condition of the houses in this urban part is fair ; many cottages in the older part of the village and the rural part of the parish require constant supervision and repair.

There is a shortage of houses and a building scheme for 80 houses is in contemplation.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

The village is chiefly residential the greater part of the population being employed in Bristol as clerks, railwaymen, tram drivers and conductors, employees at the Tramway Co.'s constructional works, and Bristol factories. Messrs. Robertson

have a Jam Factory in the parish, employing 250 men and women. There are also several market gardens and a considerable agricultural area.

Burnett Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage.

No sewerage system. Two large private houses drain to Septic tank with filter area in field, this has been recently reconstructed and works satisfactorily.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Chiefly earth closets ; cesspits are as far as possible being abolished. The two houses menitoned in (*a*) above have W.C.s.

(*c*) Water Supply.

Efficient supply from springs on Compton Dando side of parish. In August 1921 these were yielding 24,000 gallons per day. Water pumped by ram, or alternatively by engine, to tank in village. Twelve cottages supplied by standpipes ; private houses and farms have the water laid on. Sample taken in December 1925 gave unsatisfactorily result ; the reason will be enquired into and appropriate action taken.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse disposed of on gardens and fields.

(*e*) Schools :—

School now permanently closed.

(*f*) Housing :—

Houses in very fair condition ; no shortage.

(*g*) Social Conditions ;—

Chiefly agricultural ; two large farms and three private houses in addition to cottages.

Compton Dando Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewers ; farms and private houses drained to cesspools.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

More than half the cottages have cesspit privies as there are large gardens, and in many cases small fields, attached to holdings; the remainder have earth closets, and these are substituted for cesspits where the latter become a nuisance.

(*c*) Water supply :—

Springs and wells. One spring conducted to tank near Green Farm, which it supplies as well as Church Farm, the overflow is led to a tap at roadside nearly opposite the School. This spring was yielding 6,000 gallons per day in September 1921, and is available for 11 cottages, besides the two farms. A sample of this water taken from the tap late in the year gave an unsatisfactory result and the reason will be sought ; the spring itself is pure. Other farms and cottages supplied by springs or wells, several of the latter are open to pollution.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse disposed of on gardens and fields.

(*e*) Schools :—

Earth closets and urinal. Water supply from tap opposite.

(*f*) Housing :—

Houses generally in fair condition ; a few of the oldest still require improvement. Some shortage is felt and the erection of 6 new houses decided upon.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Chiefly agricultural. Thirteen farms and several small holdings. Part of population employed at Pensford and Bromley Collieries (in the Clutton Rural District).

Corston Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewers.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences.:—

Closet accommodation chiefly earth closets (bucket) with a few dry privies. Ten pan closets connected to cesspools ; 36 earth closets.

(*c*) Water supply :—

Partly from the West Gloucester Water Co., supplying 10 houses, partly from a spring at Water-trough Hill. The spring water is collected in tank, and led by iron pipes to standpipes in the village. Standpipes serve 40 cottages. This spring yielded 720 gallons per day in August 1921, but the water is apt to run short in drought, and a sample taken late this year gave an unsatisfactory result the reason for which will be en-

quired into ; the spring was pure in 1924. Outlying cottages have wells.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

No refuse collection ; disposal on gardens and fields.

(*e*) Schools ;—

Urinal and pan closets, water flushed. Water from standpipe close by.

(*f*) Housing :—

Fair ; some cottages require repair and notices have been served. New houses asked for, but provision would be uneconomic.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Several private residences, but chiefly agricultural occupation, five farms, several small holdings and market gardens.

Kelston Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewers.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Chiefly cesspit privies, kept in fair condition ; large gardens for dealing with contents. There are 16 cesspits, 7 earth closets, and 3 pan closets connected to cesspools in the village.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Supplied by springs piped to village ; water laid on to private houses, and some cottages, the others obtain water from the "fountain." Ample supply, yielding 8,280 gallons per day in August 1921. A sample taken near the end of the year proved unsatisfactory, and the reason is being inquired into.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

No refuse collection ; used on gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

School now closed ; scholars go to school at Weston, Bath.

(*f*) Housing :—

Cottages in the village in fair condition, but several at Kelston Mill require improvement. Houses in demand.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Agricultural ; four farms and several small holdings ; a few private houses.

Keynsham Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

A sewerage system serves the whole of Keynsham Town, and covers a large portion of the parish ; system works satisfactorily, and discharges chiefly into the river Avon ; there are minor discharges into the Chew, a tributory of the Avon. Houses in the town connected to sewers by pipe drains, save in a few instances.

Sewer extensions have been made in 1923–4 & 5 as under :—

1923.	In rear of Albert Road	200	feet	of 6 inch
1924.	In Burnett Road	696	„	9 „
	In rear of Cantles Lane	80	„	6 „
1925.	Across the Hams	1630	„	9 „
	Across the Hams	221	„	6 „
	New Road	672	„	6 „
	Somerdale Building Estate ...	905	„	9 „

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Nearly all houses in the Town have flushed W.C.s, a few outlying cottages have earth closets. Old type pans are being replaced by pedestal or cottage pans when insanitary. Privies, cesspit and dry in the hamlet of Chewton Keynsham and the purely rural portions.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Practically the whole parish is supplied by the West Gloucester Water Co., some outlying farms and houses supplied by spring or wells.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse collected weekly, under contract, in Keynsham Town, and tipped in a disused quarry away from dwellings.

(*e*) Schools :—

Keynsham Parochial School has Company's water for drinking, also for wash basins and flushing W.C.'s and urinals.

Infant School has Company's water for purposes as above.

(*f*) Housing :—

Several cottages in the older parts of the parish—Bath Hill, Temple Street, Chew Bridge and Steel Mills—still require attention, in the other parts the houses are in fair condition. There

is a demand for houses, and it has been decided to erect 24.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

The parish is to a great extent residential ; there are many private houses, and a great many residents have their business or work in Bristol.

The local sources of employment are railways, shops, Brass Mills, "Tangent" Tool Works, "Polysulphin" Co.'s Works, Colour Works. Messrs. Fry's new Chocolate Factory employs 202 men, 326 women and 50 boys (total 574) indoors, and 105 men outdoors ; extensions of this Factory are contemplated.

There is also a considerable agricultural area, including the hamlets of Chewton Keynsham and Stockwood.

Marksbury Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewers.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Closets chiefly of cesspit type ; there are about 26 of these and 6 earth closets. There are large gardens for dealing with the contents. Earth closets are substituted for cesspit privies as opportunity arises.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

From an open spring. Before the war practially every well in the village was found to be polluted, and the spring was also polluted to a minor and varying extent. The spring water is pumped to the upper part of the village and laid on to farms ; 22 cottages are supplied by standpipes. Endeavour was made to find the source of pollution and clear the spring, but the attempt has been unsuccessful, and no practicable scheme for securing a pure supply has yet been found, though endeavour has been made to do so. Yield of spring 8,640 gallons per day in 1921.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse disposed of on gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

Water from village supply. Earth closets, urinal.

(*f*) Housing :—

Repairs to the cottages are carried out steadily each year by the Estate Owner, some are in fair condition, others still require attention. No demand for new houses.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Chiefly agricultural, six farms. Several private residences, including Hundstretc House in the hamlet of Hundstrete.

Newton-St.-Loe Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

Sewer laid through centre of village and houses connected.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Twenty-six cottages have earth closets, 9 cesspits, a few pan closets. Larger houses have W.C.'s connected to sewer. The village water supply would not be equal to flushing W.C.'s for cottages.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Supplied by springs with storage tank in field S.E. of village, yield of spring 5,040 gallons per day in August 1921. Water piped to 8 farms and private residences, standpipes for 32 cottages. Two farms on outskirts supplied by separate springs.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

No collection ; used on gardens and fields.

(*e*) Schools :—

Water from village supply. Latrine type closets flushed by automatic tanks. Infant school recently closed.

(*f*) Housing :—

Conditions fair generally, but there are several old thatched cottages in bad condition belonging to the Newton Park Estate, for which notices have been served. The owner of the estate has promised to provide houses if required.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Mainly agricultural, six farms. Several large private residences including Newton Park.

Northstoke Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewerage scheme, partly drained to a field slope below village.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Twelve cottages have cesspits with large gardens for disposal of contents ; 7 cottages have earth closets ; 4 cottages have pan closets. Private houses and farms have W.C.'s drained to cesspools or to fields.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Two separate springs and storage tanks on hill above village, yield of springs 4,000 gallons per day in August 1921. Water laid on to 4 farms and private houses, standpipes for 11 cottages. A sample of this water gave an unsatisfactory result in December this year, and steps are being taken to remedy the trouble. That part of the hamlet of Swinford which is in the Keynsham area supplied from spring on hill above : storage tank ; yield in August 1921, 17,280 gallons per day. Water laid on to several houses, standpipes for others, this supply is under the control of the Keynsham and Warmley Councils. Sample analysed in December this year was pure.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse disposed of on gardens and fields.

(*e*) Schools :—

None.

(*f*) Housing :—

Conditions generally fair.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Chiefly agricultural, three farms. The inhabitants of the hamlet of Swinford are principally employed at the Flock Mills and Oxide works in the Warmley R. S. D. One offensive Trade that of Fellmonger carried on in Swinford.

Priston Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage :—

No Sewers.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Twenty-three cesspits, 17 dry privies, the latter cleansed periodically by tenants ; large gardens for dealing with contents.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

From a spring at Nailwell—overflow in August 1921—21,600 gallons per day. Water laid on to 6 private houses and farms ; standpipes for 35 cottages. More standpipes are required as some dwellings are at too great a distance from any of the present standpipes.

(*d*) Scavenging :—

Refuse used on gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

Water supply from standpipe close by. Earth closets.

(*f*) Housing :—

Conditions here have improved generally. A good many cottagers purchased their cottages when the estate was sold a few years ago, and have carried out repairs.

Further housing accommodation was at one time asked for, for colliers, but was ultimately not required. Should the collieries develop the question may again arise.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Occupation practically agricultural ; some colliers. Five farms and one colliery ; two private residences.

Queen Charlton Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

Part of the drainage conducted to large tank in a field and dealt with on land.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Chiefly earth closets emptied by occupiers on to large gardens; 11 earth closets, 2 cesspits. The larger houses have W.C.'s drained to field tank mentioned under (*a*).

(*c*) Water Supply :—

From three wells one of which was sunk in 1921–2 to augment supply. The water is pumped by windmill to galvanised storage tanks and gravitates to village. The water from the well under windmill has shown signs of contamination on many occasions, but the other two wells are pure. The use of the water from this well should be discontinued as a recent sample from a tap in the village was found to be contaminated ; in consequence of this result the tanks have been cleaned and the main flushed—further samples to see the effect of this action will be taken later.

(*d*) Refuse Disposal :—

On gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

Now closed.

(*f*) Housing :—

Cottages in fair condition with the exception of those called the " Poor Houses," one of which has been extensively repaired and new rooms added ; it is hoped the other two will shortly be taken in hand.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Practically entirely agricultural ; four farms, 2 private residences.

Saltford Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

Sewers laid for practically the whole of village and houses connected. Considerable extensions amounting to 1,882 yards were made in 1923–4 as under :—

1923.	Norman Park Estate	800	ft. of	9	inch
	Mr. Week's field	787	,,	6	,,
	Mr. Cole's field	140	,,	6	,,
	Mr. Moore's field	200	,,	6	,,
1924.	The Glen	1170	,,	6	,,
	Mr. Cole's field	490	,,	6	,,
	Mr. Moore's field	400	,,	6	,,
	Mr. Cole's field	80	,,	6	,,
	Mission Hall Lane	1580	,,	9	,,

The outfall is into the River Avon.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Principally W.C.'s, 41 out of 49 cottages have pan closets, 5 have earth closets, and 3 cesspits privies. A considerable number of old pattern pans recently replaced by modern type.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

Supplied by the West Gloucester Water Co. A lack of pressure was experienced during the last summer at houses situated on high ground. Generally the supply is good.

(*d*) Refuse Disposal :—

No collection ; used on gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

Company's water laid on for drinking, washing, and flushing W.C.'s and urinals.

(*f*) Housing :—

Conditions moderate ; several small cottages not very suitable, others in fair condition ; considerable amount of repair has been carried out in recent years.

The provision of 8 new houses by the Council has helped to ease the shortage and the provision of 4 more is contemplated.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Agricultural and residential. There are six farms and several small holdings. There is a considerable number of private residences owned and occupied by persons having their business in Bristol or Bath. It is a boating centre, several rowing clubs have boat club houses. There is also a golf course. Saltford parish is growing rapidly in population, a considerable number of houses having been erected in the last three years.

Bath Sewage Disposal Works situated a short distance from the lower part of the village on the Bristol side have been for some years, and still are, the cause of considerable complaint on account of effluvia.

Stanton Prior Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage :—

No sewers.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Eleven earth closets and 11 cesspit privies for cottages ; contents used on large gardens. The larger houses have W.C.'s connected to cesspools.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

From spring in field on Wilmington side of village ; water collected in storage tank and laid on to two farms, and to standpipes for cottages. Improvements carried out at the spring head in 1922 increased the daily yield from 1,900 gallons per day to 3,000. Five farms and private houses connected ; standpipes for 17 cottages. Manor Farm and Priory Farm have separate supplies.

(*d*) Refuse Disposal : —

On gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

None ; children attend Marksbury School.

(*f*) Housing :—

General housing conditions only moderate. Several notices served under Sec. 8 H. and T. P. Act. Repair work progressing slowly. No special shortage.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Purely agricultural ; four farms and Rectory.

Whitchurch Parish.

(*a*) Sewerage and Drainage :—

No sewerage system. Some dwellings connected to highway drain. New houses connected to cesspools or septic tanks. The question of a scheme for this village was raised this year, and a visit was paid by the County Medical Officer of Health, who, however, thought that conditions at the present time hardly justified its provision. Disposal of the sewerage satisfactorily would be a matter of difficulty.

(*b*) Sanitary Conveniences :—

Cottage accommodation partly pan closets (flushed), partly earth closets, and a few cesspits ; of 51 cottages 15 have pans, 29 earth closets, 7 cesspits. Better class houses have W.C.'s connected to cesspools.

(*c*) Water Supply :—

By West Gloucester Water Co. Complaints were received some years ago of short and intermittent supply, and a storage tank was constructed to prevent this trouble. In 1921 however, it was again intermittent, but since then it has been constant. Four outlying farms supplied by springs. There are a few wells.

(*d*) Refuse Disposal :—

On gardens and fields.

(*e*) School :—

This school is only a few years old. Company's water for drinking and washing. Closets on the Swanmore Dry Earth System ; urinal.

(*f*) Housing :—

Conditions generally only moderate. Some very fair cottages, others small and in poor condition. Many of these repaired a few years ago again require attention. There is a demand for houses and a scheme for 12 is in hand.

(*g*) Social Conditions :—

Agricultural and residential. Eleven farms, several market gardens, and a number of private residences. Many business men and others whose work is in Bristol reside here. The village is growing fairly rapidly.

GENERAL REMARKS.

There has been no marked change in the conditions existing in the district generally; work has been consistently carried out on the lines laid down for some years, and there is gradual if slow improvement in many ways.

So far as statistics go the various rates, as in the country generally, all tend to decline steadily, as shown below:—

	Average of 5 years 1916—20	Average of 5 years 1921—25	Rate in 1925
Death Rate	11·94	9·87	8·32
Birth Rate...	16·21	15·25	14·1
Infant Mortality Rate	75·34	47·65	44·58
Epidemic Disease Rate	0·61	0·25	0·18

The district is fortunate in having only one offensive trade which is carried on well away from houses, and there are no common Lodging Houses or underground Bakehouses or Sleeping rooms.

The greatest change recently taking place is the fairly rapid growth of Saltford, and to a lesser extent of Whitchurch as residential areas. In the former, sewers existed and extensions necessitated by new building could be made; in the latter there is no sewerage system, and it would be difficult to provide one —its absence however in my opinion tends to check development, and the matter will probably have to be seriously considered before long.

The continuity of the district with the City of Bristol on the one side and its close linking with the City of Bath on the other tend to influence to some extent the prevalence of infectious disease. There is, of course, interchange of infection, but the greater tendency is I think for its introduction countrywards rather than citywards. The recent establishment of a Home for Toddlers at Wick House, Brislington, taking children from Bristol, and other places, has already given rise to trouble, and pressure on our meagre Hospital accommodation owing

to occurrence of infectious disease in the Home. Similar trouble will be sure to occur from time to time.

The Bath Sewage Works situated in the parish of Saltford have from the time of their first working many years ago been a constant source of well founded complaint, owing to effluvia. These effluvia are an undoubted nuisance, and have in my opinion been the cause of injury to health in some persons exposed to them. Their intensity varies from time to time, and the parts of the district affected depend on wind direction, but they are complained of by the inhabitants of Saltford, Kelston, Swinford, and can at times be detected even at Northstoke. No less than 110 complaints were received this year, particulars taken, and reported to the Council. The matter has been constantly brought to the notice of the Bath Town Council, and several enquiries in conjunction with representatives of Bath, Keynsham and Warmley, have from time to time been held by the Local Government Board, and the Ministry of Health. The last was in July this year at the Works, when the Bath Council (who have been constantly endeavouring to find a remedy) decided to carry out further experiments, and observers have been employed to report upon the smells at different points during the time the experiments are being made. Many remedies have already been tried, practically without success, and I fear the district is saddled with a perennial nuisance.

In conclusion I desire to thank the Council for the courtesy and consideration which they have always extended to me and to my advice, not only during the past five years, but for the whole of the 37 years during which I have been their Medical Officer.

My thanks are also due to the medical men practising in the district who have greatly assisted me from time to time.

I wish further to gratefully acknowledge the cordial help of my fellow officers, and especially of your Inspector by whom much of the detailed information in this report has been supplied, and whose constant loyal co-operation has been invaluable.

JOHN C. HEAVEN, *D.P.H.*,

Medical Officer of Health.

10.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN KEYNSHAM RURAL DISTRICT, 1925.

(Civilians only)

	Causes of Death	M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	59	49
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	2	—
6	Diphtheria	—	—
7	Influenza	3	—
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	2
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease	4	7
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14	Diabetes	1	—
15	Cerebral Hœmorrhage, &c	6	7
16	Heart Disease	8	8
17	Arterio-sclerosis	1	1
18	Bronchitis	6	6
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	5	1
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	—
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	2
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	1
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	3	1
29	Suicide	—	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	2	3
31	Other defined Diseases	10	6
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... Total	5	2
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... Illegitimate ...	4	1
	TOTAL BIRTHS	85	72
	Legitimate	78	68
	Illegitimate	7	4
	POPULATION	**11,070**	

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